

[Encoding speech segments for economical transmission and automatic playing at remote computers]

Abstract of Disclosure

The present invention provides methods for encoding speech segments in a manner in which they can be transmitted as compressed digital signals accompanying a document and decompressed and played automatically at remote computers without pre-arrangement, direct intervention such as a mouse click or apparent delay in interactive networks such as the Internet. Steps are described by which the speech signals may be encoded, and included in a document accompanied by program code to initiate actions automatically, to select segments, to decompress data, and to play sound. The documents may be web pages or electronic mail and the sounds may be helpful suggestions or advertising.